



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

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TTY Relay 711

Regional Human Services and Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Joint Board

Meeting Summary

February 04, 2010 2-4 p.m.

DESC - Rainier House

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wood at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board (RHSLOB) Members Present: Kathy Brasch (Co-Chair), Loran Lichty (Co-Chair) Kathleen Hadaller

RHSLOB Members Excused/Absent: Kevin Bernadt, Dorry Elias-Garcia, Edith Nelson

Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB) Members Present: Bill Wood (Chair), Francisco Ivarra, (Vice-Chair), Oren Hadaller, Robert Stephens, Jr., Doug Hoople

VCLOB Members Excused/Absent: Ron Forest, Stan Gunno, Gary Kingsbury, Cynthia Lefever, Kathy Lewis, and Roger Welles.

County Staff Present: Jackie MacLean, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Linda Peterson, DCHS, Debora Gay, DCHS, Sadikifu Akina-James, (DCHS); Jon Hoskins, DCHS; Marcy Kubbs, DCHS; Joel Estey, DCHS; Sherry Hamilton, DCHS; Laird Heia, DCHS.

Guests: Dawn Cherne, Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation; Larry Gossett, King County Councilmember; Daniel Malone, Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC); Paula Steinke, Childcare Resources; Scott Swaim, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs; Pam Taylor, Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation; Kira Mountjoy-Pepka, Pack Parachute

Review of Meeting Summary

The draft October 22, 2009 meeting was reviewed and the following changes were noted:

- Under "Call to Order" replace Vice-chair Hoople with Chair Hoople.
- Under "Guests" delete Katy Miller as she is noted under "County Staff Present."

ACTION: The October 22, 2009 meeting summary was approved with the above noted changes. Chair Wood introduced Councilmember Larry Gossett from District 2. Councilmember Gossett thanked the Veterans and Human Services Levy Oversight boards for inviting him to the meeting.

Chairs Report – Chair Bill Wood (VCLOB)

Introduction: During the fourth quarter of 2009 we hosted one joint board meeting; one Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board meeting; and two joint subcommittee meetings.

Opening: On December 12, 2009 several board members attended the opening of McDermott Place, a 75 unit housing development in Lake City with Congressman McDermott in attendance. The facility has set aside 38 units for veterans.

Service on RFP Review Panels: Two members of the board served on the panel reviewing applications for the Veterans Phone Resource Project. Washington Department of Veterans Affairs was selected to implement the project. On December 23, 2009, the Outreach to Minority and Women Veterans Project RFP was released with applications due on February 19, 2010. Veteran's board members will serve on the review panel.

Chairs Report – Co-Chair Loran Lichty (RHSLOB)

Introduction: Besides regular board and committee meetings, members from both boards attended special levy related events culminating in 102 total hours of volunteer service from our board members during 4th quarter. This brings the total number of volunteer hours provided by the boards since the beginning of the Levy to 1719 hours.

Evaluation: The Strategy Five Committee reviewed a revised Levy evaluation plan and template to be used to develop a 1-3 page outcome reports on each of the levy activities. The committee will meet jointly with each of the other levy strategy committees to review these reports and it is anticipated this process will be completed in the summer of 2010.

Levy Speakers Bureau Presentations: Members of both the Veterans and Human Services Levy Oversight boards have been participating with DCHS staff in presentations on the levy to community organizations. During the fourth quarter 2009, board members volunteered 24 hours to assist in presentations that were made to a number of organizations including the Human Service Commissions of the Cities of Bellevue, Redmond and Issaquah and the City Councils of Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, and Bothell.

Panel Discussion: Levy Services in the Community – Facilitated by Co-Chair Loran Lichty

Several members of the community receiving levy funds provided an update on their programs. Each panelist was introduced, shared information about their programs and answered questions from those present.

Daniel Malone, Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC), Director of Housing Programs
(Overarching Strategy 2: Homelessness; Strategy 2.4)

DESC serves disabled and vulnerable homeless adults, and is one of the largest multiservice centers for homeless adults in the Pacific Northwest. DESC's programs of permanent supportive housing, clinical services and emergency services and overnight shelter provide a continuum of care that helps people to survive and to break the cycle of homelessness.

DESC began its work as an emergency shelter for individuals with mental illness and chemical abuse – and then branched out into permanent supportive housing. The "Housing First" approach encourages sheltering the most vulnerable individuals into stable housing with the necessary supportive services to maintain that housing.

Prior to Housing First, DESC screened out individuals and only took people who were willing to work towards improvement. But then they began questioning the screening tools. Where was the benefit to screening individuals out of the program if such screening didn't improve the outcomes? Therefore, through outreach programs, DESC started gathering individuals who were in the greatest need and gave

them stable housing, regardless of their willingness to work towards improving their situation. Some were successful and some were not which supported the argument that the screening tool was irrelevant and unnecessary. DESC does have an assessment tool to ration the available beds; however it is focused on placing people into the appropriate housing with the appropriate services rather than screening people out of the program.

Rainier House has 24 hour staff, one door off the main street, a recreation area, with the upstairs set up like an apartment building. Tenants are required to pay a percent of their income towards their housing. That is the only requirement.

This project opened last February and is a 50 unit complex. In the past year, seven people have moved out which equals a very low 14% turnover rate. Eight of the fifty individuals (16%) are veterans which is a similar percentage to those that are seen in shelters. Units are filled through current DESC programs and shelters and by referral from other agencies. The ethnicity make-up of the 50 individuals is 50% Caucasian, 24% African American, 4% Alaskan Native, Latino and Pacific Islander. Rainier House is 52% male and 42% female. Emergency Shelter programs are typically about 70+% male which tells you that a larger percentage of women on the street have more severe mental illness as this program takes only the most vulnerable. There is no time limit to staying at their facility and people don't often move as they are severely disabled.

Greatest Need: Daniel stated that their greatest need is capital funding. McKinney and Veterans and Human Services Levy dollars are their main fund sources but they have no secure funding for additional projects. Due to the current economy building has stalled. There is no money in the State Housing Trust fund and though the Seattle Housing Levy was recently approved, they will be less than enthusiastic about providing capital funding to DESC because of their high service and operating dollar requirements.

Paula Steinke, Manager for the Family, Friend & Neighbor Program at Child Care Resources
(Overarching Strategy 4: Strengthening Families; Strategy 4.3)

The Family, Friend & Neighbor team partners with community-based organizations to develop culturally relevant information, resources and support for those who care for young children and therefore have a profound impact on children's development. Paula and her team work to build family support, develop protective factors against child abuse and neglect, and educate participants in social equity. Childcare Resources is an information and referral agency within King County and encourages this prevention work as early as possible. The "Family, Friends & Neighbor" program is a special subgroup within Childcare Resources. They found that many children are not in childcare but are cared for by extended family and neighbors. This program is an opportunity to provide childcare resources within their homes.

"Play & Learn (P&L) facilitated playgroups have been in place since 2005. The group teaches the children and the caregivers basic skills and helps the children achieve readiness for school. The Levy funds support the maintenance and expansion of these groups. The community partner groups support P&L groups Childcare Resources provides the training. Currently 70 facilitators are trained up and supporting ongoing groups.

Outcomes: In 2009, 2,492 families participated in P&L – a 30% increase from the 1,919 families who participated in 2008. Our Play & Learn sponsor organizations are reporting increased numbers of people attending their groups, with many families explaining they are looking for free or inexpensive early learning activities due to tight household budgets.

One of the primary outcomes measured in P&L participants is increased frequency and variety of parent and caregiver behaviors that promote children's early learning and healthy development and lead to school readiness. 84.2% of participants said they changed a behavior (reading with, talking to, and doing activities with the children in their care) "a lot more" in at least one area because of what they had learned at P&L. The outcome is stronger for participants who attended 37 or more times (92.2%) and for participants who completed the form in a language other than English (89.3%). The participants who had the strongest outcomes in this area were caregivers who answered the survey in a language other than English; 97.1% of these participants indicated they change their behavior "a lot more".

Another measured outcome is reduced isolation among parents and caregiver attending P&L. As a result of developing a healthy network of peer relationships, 55.1% of participants reporting decreased isolation "a lot more" as a result of participating in Play & Learn. Those who attended more frequently (37 or more times) had stronger outcomes (69%), and those who answered the survey in a language other than English also reported less isolation (66.7%).

If you know of people who would like to participate in these programs, please refer them to www.childcare.org and link to Play & Learn.

Scott Swaim, Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) - PTSD (Strategy 1.2 and Overarching Strategy 3: Increasing access to behavioral health services, Strategy 3.2/3.3)

Scott Swaim leads the War Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program and Coordinates the KC Levy Trauma Training project for the WDVA. He has over 18 years of clinical mental health experience and is a national leader on Military and Veteran culture. Swaim is a US Air Force, Gulf War Veteran and a licensed mental health counselor. He is a member of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS), American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans.

Scott stated that the King County Levy Trauma Training project includes three main areas of focus.

1. They are the first touch with veterans. They speak to them about the military, why it makes them different and explains the cultural aspects of being a veteran. To quote Scott: "Not everyone understands that once you are a veteran, you are always a veteran. You are never a civilian again."
2. Train support service providers, first responders (e.g. police officers), primary care providers, behavioral health providers in the mental health and substance abuse systems, and housing support providers about trauma sensitive services/PTSD and the elements of veterans' culture.
3. The Trauma Conference is coming up October 28 -29, 2010 in Seatac, WA. Topics include PTSD, Military Sexual Trauma, and Tribal Treatment. The Keynote speaker will be Dr. Charles Hogue, Army psychiatrist at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research who will be speaking on stigma reduction. There will also be discussions around collaborative treatment in one's own community. There will be presenters to underserved populations at the conference. For details, contact Scott directly at ScottS@dva.wa.gov. A flyer will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Dawn Cherne, Director of Housing for Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation
(Overarching Strategy 2: Homelessness; Strategy 2.4)

Dawn had limited time for her presentation. Valley Cities is currently receiving funding through the Veterans and Human Services Levy for the Homeless Service Enhancement Project. This program is currently serving ten veterans. She then shared a very compelling story about a young family's success as a result of the program.

Presentation to Sadikifu Akina-James

King County Councilmember Larry Gossett recognized the outstanding service, support and leadership Sadikifu has given to the Veterans and Human Services Levy program over the years. Jackie MacLean, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, presented Sadikifu with tokens of appreciation and also shared highlights of her career and outstanding service. Doug Hoople, Robert Stephens and Loran Lichty shared their appreciation for Sadikifu as well.

Councilmember Gossett - Veterans Human Services Levy Funding Future

Councilmember Gossett provided the board with an overview of the Veterans and Human Services Levy history and will appreciate the Levy Boards' input as planning for its renewal goes forward.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

You are invited to the King County Boards & Commissions Reception on Monday, February 8 from 6-8pm. It will be held at the Museum of History and Industry.

The question was asked of how the Levy boards can be part of the process to renew the levy in 2011. Jackie explained that staff is developing a year-long schedule and will bring it to the boards at a future meeting. Jackie will be meeting with Executive Constantine on Monday to discuss the timing of renewing the levy.

We need more board members now so they can be a helpful part of the renewal process. Marcy is working on a plan to fill these roles.

Petitions/Communications (Public Comment)

The Veterans Levy was noted in the Seattle Times newspaper article on McDermott Place. For more information follow the link:

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2010963641_veteranshome03m.html

Kira Mountjoy-Pepka, said that there is money in the federal community to help those experiencing military sexual trauma. Please contact Kira Mountjoy-Pepka at kira@packparachute.org for more information.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.